

Remarks

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1–4 and 15–20 are pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claim 1 has been amended herein to further clarify features of the invention, and Claims 17–20 are newly added to provide Applicant with further scopes of protection. The amendments and new claims add no new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that “the female power output receptacle interconnected in parallel with the male power input receptacle must be shown or the features cancelled from the Claims 1–4, 15, 16.” Without conceding the propriety of this objection, the “in parallel” language of Claim 1 has been deleted from that claim. Accordingly, the objection is deemed moot, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification also stands objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d) “because the female power output receptacle interconnected in parallel with the male power input receptacle has not been described in the specification.” Applicant disagrees inasmuch as this parallel interconnection is described at least at Paragraphs [0068], [0072], and [0079]. Nevertheless, independent Claim 1 has been amended herein to no longer recite that the female power

output receptacle and the male power input receptacle are “interconnected in parallel”. Withdrawal of this objection is thus requested.

The title of the invention also has been objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. Applicant traverses this objection inasmuch as the title was amended in the April 28, 2006, Preliminary Amendment filed in this application. As amended at that time, the title now reads “Module for Operable Interconnection within an Electrical System.” Applicant submits that this title is sufficiently descriptive of the invention, and notes that the title is essentially identical to the preamble of Claim 1, the sole independent claim. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1–4, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner asserts that “the female power output receptacle interconnected in parallel with the male power input receptacle has been neither described in the specification nor shown in the drawings.” Applicant traverses this rejection inasmuch as the parallel interconnection is described in the specification at least at paragraphs [0068], [0072], and [0079]. Nevertheless, Claim 1 has been amended herein to no longer recite this parallel interconnection between the male power input receptacle and the female power output receptacle. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection under §112 is moot, and requests withdrawal thereof.

Claims 1–4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6, 045,374 (Candeloro). In addition, Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Candeloro in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,347,095 (Zeder). Applicant traverses these rejections.

As now recited in independent Claim 1, Applicant's invention is directed to a module for operable interconnection within an electrical system. The module includes a housing defining an exterior and a sealed interior. The housing exterior includes (i) a male power input receptacle having a plurality of blades, the blades being recessed relative to an adjacent portion of the housing, (ii) a female power output receptacle electrically interconnected with the male power input receptacle, and (iii) a female load receptacle electrically interconnected to the male power input receptacle and that receives a load to be powered by power input to the module via the male power input receptacle. The male power input receptacle is adapted to receive a female connector configured to be substantially the same as the female power output receptacle and the female power output receptacle is adapted to receive a male connector configured to be substantially the same as the male power input receptacle.

Thus, according to the claimed invention, a module for use in an electrical system includes a power input receptacle and a power output receptacle. The power input receptacle is a male receptacle and the power output receptacle is a female receptacle. Moreover, the female output receptacle receives a male connector that is substantially the same as the male power input receptacle, and the male input receptacle interconnects with a female connector that is substantially the same as the female power output receptacle. In this manner, for example, a modular system including prefabricated modules and conductors may be achieved in which substantially the same receptacles and connectors are used throughout the system, i.e., to convey electricity. In the example shown in the figures, the power generally flow through devices from male input to female output.

Applicant submits that many of these features are not taught or suggested by the cited patents, whether taken alone or in proper combination.

Candeloro relates to an electrical wiring system. Figure 10 of that patent shows male prongs arranged in a side of an electrical outlet box. A wiring strip 22 is connectable to these male prongs, to introduce electricity to the outlet. Thus, as shown in Figure 10, electricity is introduced to the outlet box via the male prongs 158 from an electrical strip and a load may then be plugged into the receptacles 156 on the face of the outlet 150. Moreover, as shown in Figures 11 and 12, Candeloro contemplates the introduction of electricity via wire strip 22 to a light switch 170.

In another embodiment of Candeloro, Figures 23 and 24 depict an outlet having multiple through-prongs 332 disposed at sides of the outlet and blade connectors 333, 334, and 335 for connection to an already existing outlet. In this manner, when the outlet of Figures 23 and 24 is plugged into an existing outlet, not only may the plugs be used for powering a load, but the male connectors 332 may also be used to further convey electricity downstream of the outlet.

Thus, according to Candeloro, electrical inputs and outputs supplied in an outlet or similar device are provided via the male connectors. However, nowhere does Candeloro teach or suggest at least the male power input receptacle, female power output receptacle, and female load receptacle as set forth in independent Claim 1. Specifically, nowhere does Candeloro teach or suggest that the male power input receptacle is adapted to receive a female connector configured to be substantially the same as the female power output receptacle and the female power output receptacle is adapted to receive a male

connector configured to be substantially the same as the male power input receptacle.

Zeder is disclosed only for teaching features of dependent claims. Accordingly, and without conceding the propriety of the Office Action's characterization of Zeder, Applicant submits that Zeder does nothing to remedy the deficiencies of Candeloro discussed above.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 recites features that patentably define Applicant's invention over the cited patents. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to Claim 1 thus are requested.

The remaining claims, including new Claims 17–20, depend from independent Claim 1 and are deemed allowable by virtue of this dependency, as well as for reciting other patentable features of Applicant's invention. Applicant requests favorable and independent consideration of the dependent claims.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections, and early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If necessary, Applicant's below signed attorney may be reached by telephone at (585) 232-6500. All written correspondence should continue to be directed to the address on file for this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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